

CLAIMS

1. A method of forming an article, the method comprising the steps of:

5 determining the relative intensity at different points of an image;

forming an article from a translucent material so that the article has a relief such that the thickness corresponds to the different intensities of the image.

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2. A method according to Claim 1, in which the article has thicker portions corresponding to the darker regions of the original image, and thinner portions corresponding to the lighter regions of the original
15 image.

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3. A method according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, in which the relative intensities of the different points of the original image is determined by scanning the image into
20 a computer.

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4. A method according to any preceding claim, in which the image is analysed by dividing this into separate picture elements, and determining the intensity of each
25 picture element.

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5. A method according to Claim 4, in which a value corresponding to the intensity of each picture element is stored in memory.

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6. A method according to Claim 5, in which the stored values are used to control a computer driven engraving machine to form the article.

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7. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, in which the step of forming the article includes the step of forming a mould having a relief corresponding to the relative intensity of the points of

the original image and moulding the article from a translucent material in the mould to form an article having different thicknesses corresponding to the different intensities of the original image.

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8. A method according to Claim 7, in which the mould is formed of metal.

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9. A method according to Claim 7 or 8, in which the step of forming the mould is an engraving step.

10. A method according to any one of Claims 1 to 6, in which the step of forming the article comprises the step of engraving translucent material.

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11. A method according to Claim 6, 9 or 10, in which the engraving step is achieved using a numerically controlled engraving machine.

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12. A method according to Claim 6, 9 or 10, in which the engraving step is achieved using laser engraving.

13. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, in which the article is formed from a plastics material.

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14. A method according to any one of Claims 1 to 12, in which the article is formed from a confectionery material, such as candy or chocolate.

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15. A method according to any one of Claims 1 to 12, in which the article is formed from a soap.

16. A method according to any one of Claims 1 to 12, in which the article is formed from a wax.

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17. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, in which the material includes luminescent particles.

5 18. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, including the further step of providing a luminescent layer on or in the article.

19. A method according to any one of the preceding
10 claims, in which the article is formed of a coloured material.

20. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, including the further step of providing a
15 coloured layer on or in the article.

21. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, in which the article is made from a heat sensitive material whose light transmissive properties
20 vary dependent on the temperature of the material.

22. An article formed of a plastics material, the article having different thicknesses at different points corresponding to the relative intensity of an image.

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23. An article formed of a confectionery product, such as candy or chocolate, the article having different thicknesses at different points corresponding to the relative intensity of an image.

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24. An article formed of soap, the article having different thicknesses at different points corresponding to the relative intensity of an image.

35 25. An article formed of wax, the article having different thicknesses at different points corresponding to the relative intensity of an image.

26. An article comprising a container containing a liquid, the container being shaped to be of variable width, the width at different points corresponding to the relative intensity of an image.

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27. An article according to any one Claims 22 to 26, in which the material includes luminescent particles.

28. An article according to any one of Claims 22 to 27, in which a luminescent layer is provided on or in the article.

29. An article according to any one of Claims 22 to 28, in which the article is formed of a coloured material.

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30. An article according to any one of Claims 22 to 29, in which a coloured layer is provided on or in the article.

31. An article according to any one of Claims 22 to 30, in which the article is made from a heat sensitive material whose light transmissive properties vary dependent on the temperature of the material.

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A5

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B1